

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 CU-04 INT-08 AGR-20

AID-20 SCI-06 SAM-01 FEA-02 DRC-01 /185 W

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R 120620Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5716

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1973

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SU, IR

SUBJ: MORE ON NUMEIRY VISIT

LBDEF: TEHRAN 1901

1. ALI-AKBAR SHAHBAZI, CHIEF OF MFA 6TH POLITICAL DIVISION (AF EXCEPT ARABS), TOLD POLCOUNMARCH 9 THAT NUMEIRY'S VISIT TO TEHRAN HAD RESULTED IN CLOSER TIES AND PROSPECT OF GREATLY EXPANDED COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. ECONOMIES OF IRAN AND SUDAN ARE COMPLEMENTARY AND EACH CAN BENEFIT FROM PRODUCTS OF OTHER. IRAN HOPES BUILD MEAT CANNERY IN SUDAN TO EASE SHORTAGE AND HIGH PRICE OF MEAT IN IRAN. SUDAN HAS GREAT AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL AND SHAHBAZI SAID IRAN CAN EHLP DEVELOP IT BY PROVIDING IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT AND EXPERTISE, FERTILIZER, ETC, SUDANESE ECON MISSION WILL ARRIVE TEHRAN ABOUT MARCH 11 FOR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS, WITH IRANIAN MISSION GOING KHARTOUM IN MID-APRIL TO

WORK OUT DETAILS.

2. SHAHBAZI SAID SUDANNESE COUNSELOR HAD ARRIVED TEHRAN MARCH 7 TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR NEW AMBASSADOR'S ARRIVAL. HE EXPECTS IT WILL
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TAKE SOME TIME AND SEVERAL VISITS BY COUNSELOR TO KHARTOUM BEFORE

EMBASSY IS READY TO OPEN.

3.

ASKED WHETHER PREFERENTIAL OIL ARRANGEMENT FOR SUDAN HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH NUMEIRY, SHAHBAZI DUCKED QUESTION AND LAUNCHED INTO HARD-SELL DEFENSE OF IRANIAN OIL PRICE POLICY, INCLUDING ASSERTION THAT PRESENT HIGH PRICE WAS IN US INTEREST AND HAD BEEN TACITLY AGREED TO BY US. HE CONTRASTED IRAN'S OFFER OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO UNDER DEVELOPED CONSUMERS (INCLUDING SUDAN WHICH HE SAID GETS 95 PERCENT OF ITS PETROLEUM FROM IRAN) WITH ATTITUDE OF SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT WHICH HAD PROFITED MUCH MORE ON PER CAPITA BASIS THAN IRAN FROM PRICE RISE BUT STILL DECLINE TO CONTRIBUTE TO ASSISTANCE FUND PROPOSED BY IRAN.

4. COMMENT: WHEN POLCOUN CONTESTED ASSERTION THAT HIGHER PRICE WAS IN US INTEREST, SHAHBAZI MADE CONVOLUTED ATTEMPT TO SHOW THAT SINCE US PRODUCES MOST OF OIL IT USES RATHER THAN IMPORTING IT, AND SINCE HIGHER OIL PRICE WILL INCREASE PRICE RECEIVED FOR PETROCHEMICAL PRODUCTS OF US FIRMS, TERMS OF TRADE HAVE CHANGED TO US ADVANTAGE. HE DID NOT DOCUMENT ALLEGATION OF QTE TACIT US AGREEMENT END QTE. AS THIS WAS COURTESY CALL, POLCOUN DID NOT RPT NOT PURSE MATTER FURTHER. END COMMENT.
HELMS

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